

AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD LIVE.

Text: Mtt.5:13-16 Ye are the salt of the earth, etc.

Ye are the light of the world, etc.

My remarks more of an application of the text than an exposition.

I. The implications of the term "SALT OF THE EARTH".

1. It implies that humanity is perishable and needs preserving.

a. Nations and whole civilizations have perished from off the face of the earth.

b. Individuals from the best of families and with the best of training frequently fall.

The best of us may err, may be led astray.

 Sin is a creature of such frightful mein,
 That to be hated needs but to be seen;
 But seen too oft, familiar with its face,
 We first endure, then pity, then embrace "

Our uncontrolled desires and tendencies lead us astray. (55

c. Conditions of decay may exist without our knowing

2. It implies that our powers to preserve may lose their potency. But if the salt have lost its savor.

a. Even the most potent medicines when taken too frequently and long lose their potency.

Our religion, for the same reason, may cease to influence either ourselves or others.

The minister whose sermons were understood as soon as he announced the texts.

The most ardent Xn may become rutted in his prayers and testimonies and Xn activities as to become stereotyped. He is regarded as a "Character" in the community, one even whom everybody respects, but as such he has little if any influence over others.

b. Salt, mixed with other chemicals, loses its saltiness. Religion may also become mixed with other things and thereby lose its power over ourselves and over others.

II. The term "Light of the world" implies there is darkness.

1. Every generation is born in darkness.

- a. Its ignorance must be overcome by its own learning
- b. Its diseases and sicknesses must be overcome by its own remedies.
- c. Its sin must be overcome by its own repentance and its own spiritual regeneration.

2. Pagan darkness stalks in every land.

- a. Even in the U.S. there is much darkness.

Ignorance, illiteracy and superstition.

Sin and debauchery prevalent.

- b. There is darkness in every one of us. None of us is altogether light.

"If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness how great is that darkness!" Our very light may be darkness.

"Oh, 'you say, 'you are too pessimistic.' Was Jesus any the less so? Was not he keenly aware of the sin in the world and of the sinfulness of human nature? Is it pessimism to look the facts of life squarely in the face? And is it a wholesome optimism to utterly disregard these facts?"

III. The term, "Ye are" implies that it is the duty of every Xn to make himself salient salt and shining light.

1. Spiritually speaking, a Xn must be as salt and as light.

- a. He must keep up his saliency and his light power.

The best way to get well is not to be cured all the time but to keep well all the time, thru proper care of the body ~~thru~~ by the right kind of eating, bathing, exercise and thinking.

The best way to keep spiritually well is not to run to God to be cured all the time but by keeping yourself spiritually fit by means of the right kind of spiritual ~~food~~ eating, bathing, exercise and thinking. Prayer, reading of Bible, meditation consultation and working with other Xns.

2.

2. Xns not only salt, but salt of the earth: not only light, but light of the world.

- a. Our Xty is not merely something that we get for ourselves, but it is primarily something that we use for the good of others, that we share with those who do not possess it.

We are to mingle and mix with the world as salient salt and shining light until the world is saved

3. and lighted up.

Conclusion. The elements of the communion.

When man sets up a monument in memory of a loved one, he selects some enduring substance to withstand the ravages of time. A bronze tablet, a marble shaft, or a granite slab.

But when Jesus Christ set up His memorial, he took bread and the druit of the grape- perishable elements- and commanded that these should be consumed by his disciples.

In the act of consuming these elements of bread and wine as commemorating our Lord Jesus Christ we as His followers express the loyalty of our hearts.

And our loyalty to Christ is proven by the use of our lives as such salt and such light in the world as helps God to build His kingdom upon the earth.

"Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, shall save it.